

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on October 19, 2011 has been entered.

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney Robert Haroun on January 11, 2012.

3. The applicant has been amended as follows:

Claim 27 has been canceled.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

4. Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, and 9-26 are allowed.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior arts of record fail to anticipate or render obvious a fixed caliper for a disc-brake wherein said one or more shells delimit one or more through openings, in which the total area of opening of said through openings is less than 40% of the total area of the one or more shells including that of said through openings in which the slenderness of the entire connecting structure formed by said one or more shells, including the through openings, expressed as the ratio of thickness to circumferential extension of said entire connecting structure relative to the axis of rotation of the brake disc is between $2/100$ and $4/100$; wherein said connecting structure extends substantially along an arc of circle having a radius of 180 mm to 220 mm, in which the average thickness of the shell is between 5 mm and 15 mm, and wherein the circumferential extension of said connecting structure corresponds to an angle of aperture of a sector of circle of between 100 and 300 degrees.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MARIANO SY whose telephone number is (571)272-7126. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. from 8:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Siconolfi, can be reached on 571-272-7124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://portal.uspto.gov/external/portal>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/MS/

January 11, 2012

/ROBERT A SICONOLFI/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 3657